

Mr. HS/126

Helen Spurway
Habshiguda 16
Hyderabad 7
India.

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Dear Joshua,

I would be a much better correspondent if money, let alone generosity, were not involved.

I have received your letter and your enclosure to Aronson, have heard from him and enclose a carbon of my reply.

Is 100/o good value? Haldane himself would have hit the ceiling. He always stood out for 160/o. However this is a reprint, and I have no idea of current American practice. For this reason, and others which I shall come to, I should prefer you to sign the contract.

My main reason for this is, that India being a poor country, we have very strict rules over foreign exchange. If I signed the contract I should lose all freedom of action over the relevant money. I have not yet made up my mind, and do not intend to be forced into doing so, as to how much, if any, I am going to accept from you, if only for the following reason.

One of the suggestions made to me is for a publication of some of these essays as a text book (? what subject) for Indian students. It is assumed by my friends here that this edition would be annotated on those points linguistic and social, which an Indian would not take for granted. It is suggested that I pay this annotator, and collect the royalties. Again I am hesitating, firstly because I am embarrassed, as you embarrass me, but secondly because as you see these essays need scientific annotation. I am not competent to do this, but you are. Therefore I see a possibility that I may need your help if I go through with this suggestion. Therefore I will not abdicate the possibility of paying you, or any one else, in dollars, if I need to ask for further work which you have not offered.

I do not think the Indian and the Indiana projects will cut into each others sales at all. But the former is only at the stage of conversation, and can cease or be delayed if you, or Mr. Aronson, would wish it.

Also Josh, your name will sell any book quite as much as Haldane's.

I hear Cavalli Sforza is with you. He will be

glad to hear that some of my friends (amateurs - not the professionals here - garn!) are starting on the population genetics of the many minute tribes who keep themselves to themselves so completely all over rural India. Their difficulty, being amateurs, however rich, active and intelligent is firstly getting sera, not made in India, and secondly, sampling. What is the substitute for random sampling in communities which are static enough to be on electoral lists, but nomadic enough to play a sort of musical chairs between villages every few years.

The moving spirit, a woman and a doctor, I hope will go to Europe for 'Higher Studies' this autumn. If so I will try and arrange for her to spend at least some days with Jayakar at Pavia.

Thanking you again, Josh,

Yours

A. Spurway

Prof. Joshua Lederberg,
Department of Genetics

Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford Medical Centre,
300, Pasteur Drive, Palo Alto,
Calif. 94305.